international issues of mutual concern in particular the fight against international terrorism and evolving situation in Afghanistan. German Chancellor condemned the terrorist attack in Srinagar on 1st October, and reiterated that Germany would not distinguish between acts of terrorism or between good & bad terrorists. Chancellor Schroeder suggested and Prime Minister agreed that both countries should meet at the highest political level annually. PM has accepted Chancellor Schroeder's invitation to visit Berlin in 2002. The need to strengthen economic linkages, particularly in infrastructure and IT was highlighted during the visit. Four agreements for German assistance totalling Rs. 670 crores for the 140 MW Integrated Solar Power Plant at mathania, Rajasthan, and assistance for programmes on integrated rural water supply, polio and fertilizers were signed during the visit.

Bangladesh's willingness to export petroleum gas to India

1264. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Government of Bangladesh is willing to export petroleum gas to India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to explore the possibility of importing gas from Bangladesh on economic consideration at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India have been informed by the Government of Bangladesh that it was examining the possibility of export of gas to India.

Fraudulent withdrawal of money from account of Indian Embassy in Ukraine

1265. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 35 lakhs has been fraudulently withdrawn from the account of the Indian Embassy in Ukraine;

(b) whether the Dollar A/C was opened with the permission of Government and in accordance with the rules and regulations in this regard;

(c) what is the progress of the case and whether Interpol help has been sought; and

(d) what action has been taken against the persons held responsible for opening the account as also for not taking appropriate measures to prevent the fraud?

THE MINSTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, sir. This fraudulent transfer of US $ 86,300 from the Account of the Embassy of India, Kyiv with State Bank of India, New York took place on 7.4.1998.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Extermal Affairs referred the matter to the CBI in September, 1998 and a case was registered on 15.10.1998. The investigation of the case, in India, Kyiv and New York, is continuing.

Attacks on Terrorist Camps in PoK

† 1266. SHRI BALKAVl BAIRAG1: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to attack soon on terrorist camps in Pak occupied Kashmir in order to curb cross border terrorism;

(b) whether any efforts are also being made to entrap Pakistan by accelerating diplomatic efforts; and

(c) if so, the details of the strategy adopted ,by Government to curb the terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have continued to appropriately and effectively bring to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. The matter has also been raised during high level discussions with world leaders. India has also established Joint Working Groups on Terrorism with several countries to enhance the levels of bilateral cooperation in the campaign against terrorism. During his recent visits to the Russian Federation, United States of America and United Kingdom, as well as during his meetings with other Heads of State/Government, Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee forcefully brought out the need to systematically root out terrorism, not just from one country or one region, but from the whole world. In the Joint Communique adopted after the recently concluded second India-European summit on 23rd November, 2001 both sides supported the fight against terrorism, wherever it occurred and regardless of motives.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.